

Sir G. Simpson.
 26 February 1857.

845. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] I think that at those portages every thing is literally carried on men's backs?—Yes.

846. Mr. *Kinnaird*.] Did you not, after that interesting extract from your book, recommend to the Company the establishment of a settlement somewhere between the Lake of the Woods and the Rainy Lake?—No; I suggested that a missionary establishment might be formed there.

847. Which would attract settlement?—Merely for the improvement of the Indian population.

848. You recommended it as a place adapted for a missionary station, which, in other words, would be adapted for a settlement?—A missionary settlement would live by fishing in a great degree; they could not only raise produce but fish, and give their time and attention to hunting during the winter.

849. Are you not aware that the whole of the manure which is made in the Red River Settlement is wasted, because it is not required for the improvement of the land, it being so fertile?—Some improvident, careless people, who know very little about cultivation, rather than take the trouble of collecting their manure, throw it over the side.

850. I believe it is not required?—In some parts it is required; in the low alluvial points it is not required; the low alluvial points which are improved year by year, or every second or third year, from the overflowing of the river, require no manure.

851. Mr. *Bell*.] What communication is there on the shores of the Saskatchewan towards Edmonton; what is the nature of the country?—The country is level; it is a rolling prairie.

852. It is a practicable country?—Yes; I have travelled on horseback through the whole of that prairie country. I have travelled from the Red River to the Columbia on horseback.

853. Mr. *Gurney*.] I understand you to have spoken of the right bank of the river of the Rainy Lake; by the right bank, do you mean the southern bank or the northern bank?—Going down the stream; the north-eastern bank.

854. Going down the stream would be rather the southern bank?—No, north-east; the opposite side is south-west, the American bank.

855. Does not that bank belong to the United States?—No, the right bank of the Rainy Lake River is British territory; the river divides the territory; the right bank, going down the stream from the Rainy Lake to the Lake of the Woods, is British territory.

856. The opposite bank is American?—Yes.

857. Then the right bank is what would rather be the northern bank on this map?—The north-eastern.

858. Opposite the southern part of Vancouver's Island there is a place on the maps marked Fort Langley?—That is at the mouth of Fraser River.

859. I believe you mentioned that there was no very good land between Fraser River and the coast; but how is the land immediately inland from Fort Langley, between Fraser River and the American boundary?—The boundary is Fraser River, or very nearly so.

860. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] Does not Fraser River run north and south?—I think the boundary is very near Fraser River, at the mouth of Fraser River.

861. Mr. *Gurney*.] My object was rather to inquire whether Fort Langley was in any way the centre of a small district of good land?—No, it is near the southern boundary of the British territory.

862. What is the character of that district?—All the way down Fraser River to within about 50 miles of Fort Langley, it is an exceedingly rapid river.

863. What is the nature of the land eastward from Fort Langley, inland?—A short distance to the eastward is level; there is a mountainous country higher up the stream.

864. Therefore there is a space of level land immediately inland from Fort Langley?—Yes.

865. Is the mouth of the Fraser River at all available as a port or outlet?—No; there is a bar at the mouth of the river; vessels with a small draught of water would take the ground.

866. That bar could not be easily removed?—It would fill up again immediately.

867. Mr.